



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/709,678	05/21/2004	Luis Miguel Munoz	8144ES	3677
23688	7590	10/20/2004	EXAMINER	
Bruce E. Harang PO BOX 872735 VANCOUVER, WA 98687-2735			ZARROLI, MICHAEL C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2839	

DATE MAILED: 10/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/709,678	MIGUEL MUNOZ ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Michael C. Zarroli	2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 May 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 May 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)          |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)               | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. <u>10/17/04</u> .                                    |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5/21/04</u> .   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.                                   |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Objections***

1. Claim 1 objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 1 needs to be paragraphed. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).
3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 1 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okabe in view of May et al.

Okabe discloses a multi-wire connector (fig. 1) with interlocking device, said connector being of the type comprising a body (25) provided with a plurality of first connection terminals (col. 4 lines 34-35) connected to respective conductive wires (L) projecting from a top portion, which body (24) is susceptible of fitting through the lower portion of a cavity (unnumbered fig. 6a) of a base piece (23) provided with other such second connection terminals (20a) provided for coupling with said first connection terminals when the body is in coupling position within said cavity (fig. 6b), a lever (26) comprising a bridge (37) and arms (38) jointed at their ends with regard to opposite sides of the body by means of projections (32), so that said lever can rotate a certain angle (figures 6a to 6b), limited by stop configurations (39a), between an open position (fig. 6a) and a closed position (6b), locking configurations (fig. 6b) being arranged to immobilize the lever in said closed position, characterized in that means are provided for releasably interlocking the body in said coupling position in said cavity of the base piece (fig. 6b), which means comprise at least a first interlocking configuration (26b), integral to a portion of the lever (fig. 6b), and at least a second interlocking configuration

(27), integral to an inner side wall of the cavity (fig. 6b), in respective positions such that, when the body is introduced in the cavity with the lever in said open position (fig. 6a), said first and second interlocking configurations (26b & 27) do not interfere with each other, whilst when the lever is placed in the closed position, the body being in said coupling position, said first interlocking configuration (26b) interferes with said second interlocking configuration (27, fig. 6b), remaining both interlocked with each other, preventing extraction of the body from the cavity.

Okabe discloses that the lever bridge confines said conductive wires (fig. 4).

Okabe does not disclose that the lever bridge cooperates with a U shaped support.

May discloses a "U"-shaped support (fig. 1 unnumbered) being arranged projecting from said body, where the bridge (30) cooperates with this support to confine wires forming a bundle.

At the time the invention was made it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Okabe to include a U shaped support for the wires as taught by May et al.

The motivation for this modification of Okabe would have been to prevent shorting or cutting the wires by better bundling them.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

5. Claims 2-7 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Claim 2 in combination with claim 1 specifically the lever portion arranged so that the first interlocking configuration stays close to the coupling hole for the joint snug.

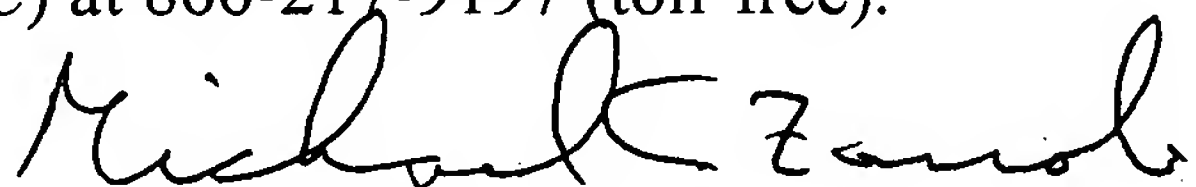
***Conclusion***

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Konoya et al, Kodama et al and, Martin et al teach multi wire connectors with lever and U shaped support.
8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael C. Zarroli whose telephone number is 571-272-2101. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 to 3:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, T.C. Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 39. The

fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Michael C. Zarroli  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2839

MCZ  
MCZ